

# My Fire Inspection Checklist



## Become an official Safety Inspector!

Make sure your home is safe and inspect for risks. Ask a grown-up for help.

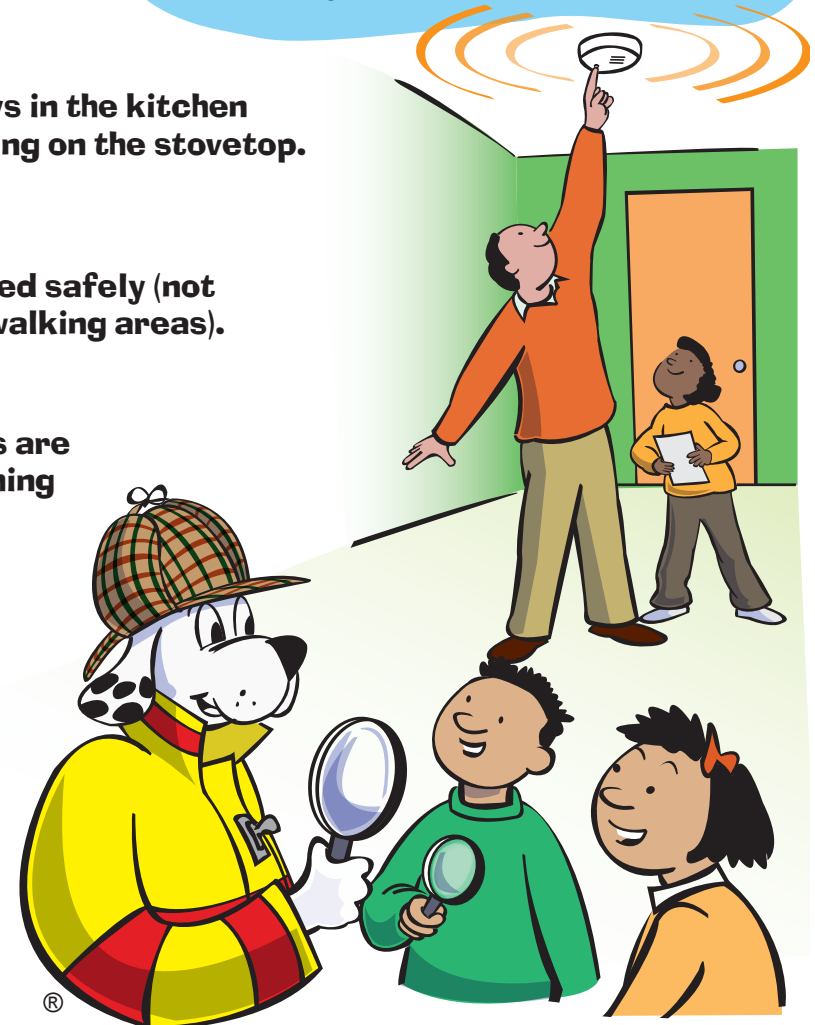
If the item on your list is **SAFE**, color the circle next to it **GREEN**.

If the item on your list is **UNSAFE**, color the circle next to it **RED**.

If you are **NOT SURE** if item on the list is safe, color the circle **YELLOW**.

-  Electrical cords are in good condition (not damaged).
-  Appliances and lights are plugged into separate electrical outlets.
-  All smoke alarms work when tested by a grown-up.
-  All escape routes are clear of clutter and easily accessible.
-  Curtains and other things that can burn are away from the stovetop.
-  Portable space heaters are off whenever a grown-up leaves the room and goes to sleep.

-  The clothes dryer has a clean vent and filter (no lint build-up).
-  A grown-up always stays in the kitchen whenever food is cooking on the stovetop.
-  All extension cords are used safely (not under carpets or across walking areas).
-  Portable space heaters are 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
-  The furnace has been inspected in the past year.
-  The chimney has been inspected and cleaned in the past year.



If any of your circles are **YELLOW** or **RED**, ask a grown-up to make it safe.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Check out Sparky the Fire Dog® at [sparky.org](http://sparky.org)  
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## Kitchen Safety Tips

- ✚ Supervise young children and first-time chefs
  - Never let your child cook alone
- ✚ Develop patience
  - Your children will make fewer mistakes when they are enjoying the process.
- ✚ Handle kitchen products properly.
  - Take the time to explain how each product works, as it's needed for each recipe.
- ✚ Understand fire safety
  - Explain how the fire extinguisher works, how to put out a grease fire, and when to call 911.
- ✚ Wear short sleeves
  - Long sleeves have a chance of catching fire or falling into hot grease or boiling water.
- ✚ Wear an apron
  - Aprons help protect clothes and add extra padding in case of spilt hot water, splattered oil, etc.
- ✚ Use oven mitts
  - Oven mitts are safer because they help your children hold onto the handle of a hot pan more securely.
- ✚ Wash your hands.
  - Hands carry germs and can contaminate food.
- ✚ Keep pan handles facing in and over countertops
  - Pan handles should never extend over the hot stove and definitely not out towards the floor where someone could bump the handle and spill a pot of hot food on him.
- ✚ Never leave food unattended.
- ✚ Unwatched pots can spill over causing fires and other kitchen hazards.
- ✚ Clean up spills.
  - Make sure your children understand the importance of cleaning up a spill as it occurs. Teach your children to clean while they wait for the next stage in preparing the food (i.e. water boils, soup simmers, etc.).
- ✚
- ✚ Never place cooked food back on a plate that once contained raw food.
- ✚ Metal and microwaves don't mix.
  - Any object that contains metal or aluminum should not be placed into a microwave because doing so could cause a fire.

## Portable Heater Safety Tips

More than 25,000 residential fires, 300 deaths, and 6,000 burn injuries every year are associated with the use of portable space heaters. Choose a portable heater wisely and use it safely during the upcoming winter season, here are nine tips for space heater safety:

**Select the right size heater for the right size space.** When you purchase a portable heater, be sure to buy one that is rated for the approximate square-footage of the room.. Look for a heater's square footage rating listed in its product specifications.

**Go for heaters with tip-over and overheat protection.** Today's portable heater models include a variety of safety features that help take some of the worry out of operation. A heater equipped with a tip-over switch will automatically shut off if it is tipped over accidentally. Portable heaters with overheat protection switches function in nearly the same manner. This switch acts as a temperature sensor, detecting when a heater's internal components become too hot. When an unsafe temperature is detected, the switch automatically shuts off the unit to prevent overheating.

**Shop for a heater with a safety certification.** Portable space heaters that are listed by Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTLs) have been tested, proven, and certified to meet specific safety standards. The manufacturers of these heaters are also required to provide consumers with important information about the safe usage and care of the units.

**Use portable gas heaters only with proper ventilation.** Portable gas heaters should only be used in areas with a lot of ventilation. These units, which heat by burning kerosene, natural gas, butane, or propane, can produce dangerous and unhealthy amounts of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, and water vapor if not vented properly.

**Give heaters their space.** Position a portable space heater at least 3 ft. away from furniture, window treatments, bedding, clothing, rugs, and other combustibles. These items could easily catch fire if they come into contact with a unit's electric heating element, open flame, or too-hot surface. Never sit or drape anything on top of a portable heater. In addition, be sure that the heater is placed on a hard, level surface that is non-flammable.

**Plug the heater directly into an outlet.** As a rule of thumb, plug a portable electric heater directly into an outlet with sufficient power capacity. Attaching an extension cord to the unit increases the chance of overheating, fires, and electrical shock injuries. If an extension cord must be attached, use one that is properly rated and sized for the portable heater appliance.

**Inspect and clean the heater regularly.** Both portable gas and electric heaters should be inspected on an annual basis and cleaned frequently to ensure that they are in safe working condition. Seek out a qualified worker to perform any repairs. Never use a defective heater.

**Shut off and unplug the heater when leaving it unattended.** Upon leaving an area, turn off the portable space heater and unplug it. Do this when you go to sleep as well, but make sure you have an adequate and safe heating alternative if need be.

**Keep the heater away from water and out of damp locations.** Unless it is specifically designed for use in damp spaces, refrain from running a heater in a bathroom or a humid basement. Moreover, do not touch the heater if you are wet or have wet hands, as this increases the risk of electrical shock.

Educating yourself about the safety hazards that come with the improper use of portable heaters will help you achieve better peace of mind as you keep your home warm, comfortable, and fire hazard-free this winter.



## **Childproofing for the Holidays**

The holidays are a fun time of year for most children, with the anticipation of seeing family and being out of school. It is also an important time of year to be mindful of your children's safety. Holiday decorations, traveling, new toys, and visiting homes that may not be childproofed, can put your children in danger. Some simple precautions can help to make sure that your children have a fun and safe holiday.

Most parents understand the importance of childproofing their homes. In addition to the risks of holiday decorations, younger children can get into trouble if they visit a home during the holidays (or anytime of year) that isn't childproofed.

- It is especially likely that a home isn't childproofed if you are visiting grandma and grandpa and they don't usually have children in the house. In addition to not having safety locks on cabinets, gates on stairs, covers on electrical outlets, etc., they may also have prescription medications that aren't in a child resistant container. If there are going to be a lot of younger children present at a holiday gathering, you might consider volunteering to go over before hand and childproof the house for them.

## **Toy Safety**

The following tips will help consumers choose appropriate toys:

- Select safe toys to suit the age, abilities, skills, and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards to younger children.
- For infants, toddlers, and all children who still mouth objects, avoid toys with small parts which could pose a fatal choking hazard.
- Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly secured eyes, noses, and other potential small parts.
- For all children under age 8, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.
- Do not purchase electric toys with heating elements for children under age 8.
- Be a label reader. Look for labels that give age recommendations and use that information as a guide.
- Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys, which can cause suffocation, before they become deadly playthings.
- If your child is going to be getting something that he can ride, such as a bicycle, inline skates, scooter, or a skateboard, be sure that he also gets the appropriate protective equipment, including a helmet and pads.

## **Safe Toys**

**Child Safety Basics** In addition to choosing safe toys and making sure the toys your kids play with are age appropriate and haven't been recalled, you can help to keep them safe by taking special precautions with the following potentially dangerous toys and toys that include hazardous parts, including:

Magnetic Toys	Loud Toys	Children's Jewelry
Small Parts	Ride-on Toys	Projectile Toys

**Toy Safety:** To keep your kids safe while playing with their toys, it is also important to:

- quickly take recalled toys away from your children
- regularly inspect toys, and then either fix or throw away broken toys, especially if they have chipping paint
- supervise your younger children while they are playing
- discourage children from putting toys in their mouth
- double check the warning labels on toys you buy online, see they are not required to include choke hazard warnings on their toys

And since you never know which toy will be recalled next, do your own inspection before you let your kids play with new toys.

## Safe Decorations and Outdoor Safety

**Decorations** Christmas trees, holiday lights, and candles can pose a safety hazard too. Before using lights when decorating, make sure that they are not damaged, avoid using more than three sets of light on a single extension cord and don't overload electrical outlets. Other decorations should be flame-resistant and made of non-leaded materials. Tinsel and small decorations should not be put where they can be easily in reach of young children. You should also avoid edible decorations, including popcorn chains and candy canes, since younger children may think that all of the decorations are edible. Keep in mind that artificial snow and flocking materials are not edible, so you may want to avoid them if there are younger children in the home.

Candles should never be left unattended, placed in an area where they can be easily knocked over or near flammable curtains or decorations. Also be careful of heavy stocking holders that toddlers and preschoolers can pull down on top of themselves, which is becoming an increasing common hazard as use of these heavy stocking hangers become more popular.

**Outdoor Safety** Encourage your child to wear a helmet when using a bicycle. Dress your child appropriately for the weather so that he doesn't get too wet or cold. Also keep a close eye on your children when shopping, as it is easily to get lost or taken in a busy store or shopping center.

**Helping Children during the Holidays** In addition to being fun, the holidays can be stressful for some children. Traveling, visiting family members, getting presents, shopping, etc., can all increase your child's stress levels. Trying to stick to your child's usual routines, including sleep schedules and timing of naps, can help you and your child enjoy the holidays and reduce stress.